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Development indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared at the request of the Statistical Commission at its forty-second session (see E/2011/24, chap. I.B). The report outlines the activities carried out by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and the Statistics Division, as mandated by the Commission, to: (a) develop tools and methodology for country-level assessment of progress in the Millennium Development Goals; (b) provide training and technical assistance to countries on indicators to monitor the Millennium Development Goals and on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange standards for Millennium Development Goals indicators; and (c) resolve differences between national and international data sets and improve coordination of data reporting and monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals. The report further contains an assessment of data availability to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and describes the preparation of the yearly progress reports on progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission is invited to comment on progress made by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and its future direction of work.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report outlines the work undertaken by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and the Statistics Division to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and to provide training to countries on national and subnational monitoring.

2. Activities were undertaken by the Statistics Division to address the requests by the Statistical Commission to: (a) develop tools and methodology for country-level assessment of progress; (b) conduct training initiatives on indicators to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals monitoring, including at the subnational level; (c) reconcile national and international data on Millennium Development Goals indicators and improve national coordination of monitoring and reporting; and (d) promote and facilitate the use of Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) for Millennium Development Goals indicators as an important tool for improving coordination and reporting on the Goals, including providing training to countries that wish to adopt the platform.

3. The work by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators and the Statistics Division in its role as coordinator of the Group continues to be guided by the principles contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity, including: (a) improving the coverage, transparency and reporting on all indicators; and (b) supporting national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity, while promoting countries' full ownership of monitoring data.

II. Developing tools for country-level assessment of progress

4. In order to address the requests by the international community and the United Nations system on information on countries' progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, the Statistics Division has developed the Millennium Development Goals Country Progress Snapshot, a tool for country-level assessment. The country progress snapshots provide a summary overview of the progress achieved since 1990 on the Millennium Development Goals at the country level.

5. The snapshots are intended mainly to provide the international community easy access to the information and are not meant to replace in any way the country profiles produced at the national level in several countries. They are also meant to reflect the contribution of country-level progress to the global and regional trends on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Finally, the snapshots address the need raised by many countries to have access to a simple method for the assessment and presentation of national progress when this is not easily available in the country.

6. For each country, the snapshot shows the levels and trends of the progress achieved for 17 selected targets under the eight Millennium Development Goals. It also compares the country progress level with the regional average progress level. The data used in the snapshot are from the Millenaium Development Goals indicators database (http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx), which are provided to the Statistics Division by the responsible agencies.

7. The analysis is undertaken by the Statistics Division using methodologies developed in collaboration with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group. Since the Millennium Development Goals were defined as global goals, the snapshots move away from the language of on track/off track used to express progress towards the achievement of the Goals at the regional and global levels.

8. The snapshots for all countries and territories in the developing regions and the regional progress charts summarizing the countries' performance in the region are available on the Millennium Development Goals website (http://mdgs.un.org). The technical notes on the methodology used for the assessment are also on the Millennium Development Goals indicators website.

9. The publication of country progress snapshot might highlight the existence of discrepancies between national and international data, which can be due to timing, differences in methodology or the use of international estimates when national data are not available. Improving the coordination between countries and international agencies, as well as making the indicators metadata widely available, should help to reduce the discrepancies.

10. Some of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group members have also developed tools and methodology for assessing progress at the country level. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has developed a web-based Millennium Development Goals country profile for each country in the region. The country profile is a graphic interface of data, figures and social, economic and environmental indicators that shows the progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals at the country level. The profile also includes a radar chart showing the degree of compliance with the targets. The United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) has produced Millennium Development Goals country profiles for internal use to monitor progress made on the Millennium Development Goals targets related to children and women.

III. Promoting the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Millennium Development Goals indicators

11. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group has devoted increased attention to ensure the achievement of the desired levels of consistency and transparency in reporting and presenting data and metadata for international monitoring. The Group identified the SDMX as a good technical solution to facilitate data and metadata exchange and improve transparency in data reporting. It has continued to promote the implementation of the SDMX standards for Millennium Development Goals indicators for reporting within national statistical systems and to the international statistical system.

12. The Statistics Division, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the African Development Bank, organized a regional workshop on the use of SDMX for Millennium Development Goals monitoring in Amman, from 10 to 13 July 2011. The workshop provided hands-on training on the use of SDMX for Millennium Development Goals indicator data and metadata exchanges and training on transforming existing Millennium Development Goals databases stored on the DevInfo platforms into SDMX format for data reporting. In addition, the workshop recommended strategies for a better

coordination within national statistical systems and between the national and international systems.

13. The workshop helped participants to understand the benefits of using SDMX in national and international data and metadata reporting, including: a reduction of data discrepancies, budgetary savings; a reduction of the reporting burden; and improved coordination within the national statistics systems. Countries expressed their willingness to adopt the standard for Millennium Development Goals data and metadata exchanges, but requested the Statistics Division and ESCWA to organize additional training for national statistics offices and line ministries to strengthen SDMX skills. In particular, it was requested that an international workshop be organized where countries that are more advanced in the use of SDMX for Millennium Development Goals data and metadata exchanges could share their experiences with countries that are planning to adopt the new platform. Many countries also supported the idea of using a SDMX interface on the DevInfo platform for those countries that have their Millennium Development Goals data already stored in DevInfo.

14. Using the lesson learned from the workshop, the Statistics Division will tailor the training materials to adapt them to the needs of developing countries in other regions, and will incorporate these materials in upcoming workshops on using SDMX for Millennium Development Goals data reporting.

15. The Millennium Development Goals data structure definition developed by the task team on SDMX has gone through a number of tests during the past few years. The results of the tests highlighted the existence of shortcomings in the first version of the data structure definition, such as duplications, the lack of comprehensive definitions and explanations, and a few errors. The Statistics Division undertook a full revision of the Millennium Development Goals data structure definition to tackle its shortcomings and improve its functionality, as well as to upgrade it to the SDMX version 2.1. The revised data structure definition was presented at the twentieth session of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group meeting, held in Manila in October 2011. After consultation with the members of Inter-Agency and Expert Group and incorporation of their inputs, the updated Millennium Development Goals data structure definition will be publicly available on the Millennium Development Goals indicators website.

16. Some of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group members are also currently working on promoting the use of SDMX. For instance, a useful tool published by the World Health Organization (WHO) provides online training courses on SDMX-HD (health domain). The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has developed the UNAIDS indicator registry, which allows users to be notified when changes are made, to reference back and to connect to the UNAIDS database for updates.

IV. Improving Millennium Development Goals monitoring

17. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group has continued to review countries' needs and identify priorities for improving countries' capacity to produce Millennium Development Goals indicators and conduct national monitoring. In 2011, the members of the Group have embarked on a number of activities to improve the availability and quality of data for Millennium Development Goals indicators by

improving access to the metadata and guidelines for the production of the indicators and by providing training workshops and programmes with the aim of helping countries to strengthen their statistical capacity to produce, analyse and disseminate data to monitor development.

18. The Statistics Division has continued to address the request by countries to provide training on the indicators with the objective of improving data availability and quality at the national and international levels and, at the same time, understanding and resolving differences between the national and international data sets.

19. The sixth Regional Seminar on Indicators to monitor the Millennium Development Goals in Latin American and Caribbean countries is scheduled to take place in Mexico City, on 1 and 2 December 2011. It is co-organized by ECLAC and the Mexican National Institute for Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and will be attended by the directors of all the national statistical offices in the region, representatives of regional entities, and experts from international agencies responsible for the Millennium Development Goals indicators, including the Statistics Division, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, UNICEF and WHO.

20. As part of the second round of training activities on Millennium Development Goals monitoring, the Statistics Division is also organizing, in collaboration with ESCAP, a workshop for Asian and Pacific countries, to be held in Bangkok from 4 to 8 June 2012. The workshop will focus on methodological issues for the calculation of the Millennium Development Goals indicators. The focus of the workshop will be maternal and child mortality and reproductive health indicators. The new version of the Handbook on Millennium Development Goals Indicators is expected to be launched during the workshop. The workshop will be attended by the country representatives from national statistical offices and health ministries and experts from WHO, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, the Statistics Division and the Population Division of the Secretariat.

21. Addressing the request by the Commission to identify experts who can provide assistance, upon the request of countries, to resolve specific Millennium Development Goals data-related issues, the Statistics Division has created a list of contacts for each of the Millennium Development Goals indicators of experts from the partner agencies. The experts are the ones responsible for the data compilation and metadata development on the indicators in their respective areas of responsibility. Experts in this group are also the ones normally responding to the request by the regional and country organizations for training and other capacity-building activities organized by the regional commissions and/or the international agencies.

22. An important activity of the year was the second International Conference on the Millennium Development Goals Statistics, held in Manila in October 2011 and co-organized by the Statistics Division and the Philippine National Statistical Coordination Board. The Conference brought together more than 100 representatives from national statistical offices and international agencies. The aims of the Conference were to: (a) exchange knowledge and share best practices in Millennium Development Goals data collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination, including subnational monitoring and how to use proxy and supplementary indicators; (b) review the implementation of the recommendations agreed in several international forums on improving the Millennium Development Goals data availability and the effective monitoring of progress; (c) review the

global, regional and country progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and targets, (d) discuss how the Millennium Development Goals indicators can be best used for policymaking, and (e) discuss the issues and challenges in monitoring Millennium Development Goals beyond 2015.

23. The conclusion and recommendations of the Conference were:

(a) For the international community, to support efforts to make Millennium Development Goals targets more ambitious to recognize different levels of development (including the use of additional, proxy or complementary indicators), to address all unresolved issues in the application of standard definitions and methodologies for the compilation of the Millennium Development Goals indicators, to strengthen country ownership of Millennium Development Goals monitoring process, to continue efforts to enhance data management and analytical tools such as SDMX, country progress snapshots and DevInfo, to increase efforts to provide guidelines and support for localizing monitoring of the Goals and addressing inequalities, and to assess the overall progress of statistical systems around the world as a result of the Millennium Development Goals monitoring process;

(b) For national statistical systems to improve the compilation of metadata in countries and their accessibility by users;

(c) To reiterate the importance of increased communication and better coordination between and among international agencies and national statistical systems/regional organizations;

(d) To advocate both at the national and international level increased promotion of Millennium Development Goals statistics not only to track progress but also to be used as basis for policy and programme interventions by Governments and the international community;

(e) To ensure the full involvement of the statistical community in the setting of targets and indicators for Millennium Development Goals beyond 2015, including sustaining the gains achieved in statistical capacity-building.

V. Assessment of data availability on Millennium Development Goals indicators

24. Since 2006, at the request of the commission, the Statistics Division has monitored the availability of data in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database. The yearly assessment has served as an indirect measure of countries' capacity to produce the data for Millennium Development Goals indicators. When considering the country coverage in the database, it is important, however, to bear in mind that not all data produced at the national level reach the international statistical system, mainly because of the inadequacy of existing reporting mechanisms, and that some of the data are the results of estimates produced by the international agencies.

25. Activities by the international agencies, regional commissions and other development partners to help countries to strengthen their statistical capacity to produce, analyse and disseminate data to monitor development and improve the dialogue between national and international experts have yielded important results. Increasingly, data production in countries has become aligned with the internationally

agreed recommendations and standards, and international agencies have developed a better understanding of data availability in countries and how to work with national experts in developing and applying the methodology needed for the production and estimation of the indicators.

26. Progress in data production in countries, improvements in the reporting from countries to the international statistical system and increased access and understanding by agencies of existing national sources have resulted in a greater availability of data in the Millennium Development Goals database.

27. Table 1 below presents the availability of data for the assessment of trends, measured as the number of countries that have data before and after 2000 (at least one data point) in the database, as of 2003, 2006 and 2011.[1] In order to compare the current status of the database with the one in 2003, only a subset of indicator series is considered, which includes those that have remained unchanged over the years in terms of definitions and methods of reporting. The number of countries for which data are available for a large number of indicator series has continued to increase over the years. In particular, the number of countries with trend data for 16-22 series increased from 0 in 2003, to 84 in 2006, and 101 in 2011. Meanwhile, the number of countries with trend data for only 0-5 series has fallen from 47 in 2003, to only 10 in 2011.

28. A decrease in data availability for some indicator series is generally due to errors or data quality issues identified by international agencies in the original national data, which result in the removal of the data in question from the series.

Table 1

Number and percentage of countries and territories in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database, by number of indicator series for which trend analysis is possible[a]

	Countries and territories					
Number of indicator series for which trend analysis is possible[b]	*As of July 2003*		*As of July 2006*		*As of July 2011*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
0-5	47	29	15	9	10	6
6-10	66	40	22	13	13	8
11-15	50	31	42	26	39	24
16-22	0	0	84	52	101	62
Total	**163**	**100**	**163**	**100**	**163**	**100**

[a] The criteria used to determine whether trend analysis is possible for a given indicator series is that the country has data for the given series for at least one point before 2000 and one after 2000.

[b] It refers to the indicator series for which the reporting is done on all developing countries. The calculation for the indicator series on donor countries is presented separately.

[1] A brief description of the methodology for the assessment of data availability in the MDG Indicators Database is provided as annex I. The complete results of the analysis are available on the website of the Statistical Commission at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2012.htm.

29. Improvement of overall data availability, irrespective of whether the data points are before or after 2000 is even greater, reflecting a faster improvement in the data availability over more recent years. There were 122 countries in 2011 displaying data for two points in time for 16-22 series, up from only 4 countries in 2003 (table 2).

Table 2

Number and percentage of countries and territories in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database, by number of indicator series with at least two data points[a]

Number of indicator series with at least two data points[b]	*Countries and territories*					
	As of July 2003		*As of July 2006*		*As of July 2011*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*[c]
0-5	31	19	9	6	9	6
6-10	49	30	19	12	6	4
11-15	79	48	31	19	26	16
16-22	4	2	104	64	122	75
Total	**163**	**100**	**163**	**100**	**163**	**100**

[a] The two points in time considered in the table refer to any time, irrespective of whether they are before or after 2000.

[b] It refers to the indicator series for which the reporting is done on all developing countries. The calculation for the indicator series on donor countries is presented separately.

[c] Total does not equal 100 owing to rounding up of percentages.

30. A more comprehensive assessment of current data availability can be conducted on the totality of the indicator series, as contained in the most recent update of the database. Table 3 below presents a full description of data series contained in the database as of July 2011, including of those series that are related to specific groups of countries — such as landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and donor countries. It is important to note that the number and percentage of countries and territories in the last category (41-55 series) has decreased compared to the result in the previous report of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2010/15). The reasons are mainly: (a) for a few indicator series (mainly employment related indicators), only national reported data are now included in the 2011 Millennium Development Goals database; (b) the methodologies and definitions for the production of some Millennium Development Goals indicators have been recently improved, which made the data collected earlier no longer comparable and created a break in series. In general, though, the overall data coverage, quantity and quality has been constantly improving.

Table 3

Number of developing countries and territories in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database, by number of indicator series for which trend analysis is possible, as of July 2011[a]

A. Indicator series reported for countries of the developing regions

Number of indicator series	*Countries and territories*	
	Number	*Percentage*
0-10	9	6
11-20	17	10
21-30	46	28
31-40	55	34
41-55	36	22
Total	**163**	**100**

[a] The criteria used to determine whether trend analysis is possible for a given indicator series is that the country has data for the given series for at least one point before 2000 and one after 2000.

B. Indicator series related to official development assistance from the 23 donor countries

Data are available for all 23 donor countries on indicator series:

8.1 Net official development assistance (ODA), total, as percentage of donors' gross national income, from 1990 to 2010

8.1 Net ODA, to least developed countries, as percentage donors' gross national income, from 1990 to 2009

8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) donors to basic social services, from 1996 to 2009

8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied, from 1990 to 2009

8.9 Proportion of ODA to help build trade capacity, from 2001 to 2009

Data are available for 12 OECD countries on indicator series:

8.8 Agricultural support estimates, from 1990 to 2009

C. Indicator series related to the 31 landlocked developing countries

Data are available for landlocked developing countries on indicator series:

8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes, up to 2009 for 29 countries, 2008 for 1 country and 2005 for 1 country

D. Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States

Data are available for 31 small island developing States on indicator series:

8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes, up to 2009 for 17 countries, 2008 for 13 countries and 2005 for 1 country

Note: No more ODA has been received by the Bahamas and Singapore since 1995.

E. Indicator series related to the 40 eligible heavily indebted poor countries

Data are available for all 40 eligible heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) on indicator series:

8.10 Number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision and completion points, from 2000 to 2011

8.11 Debt relief committed under the HIPC initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, updated every year until 2011

31. Some of the data are the results of estimates produced by the international agencies to fill some of the data gaps. In order to assess the exact extent to which the data in the database reflect the actual capacity of countries to produce the necessary data, the colour coding in the Millennium Development Goals indicator database allows to distinguish between data produced by countries and adjusted data or estimates.

32. The assessment shown in table 4 below indicates the nature of the data for the majority of countries in the database. For a country to be designated as falling into a given category for the specific series, the majority of data points have to be in that category.[2] The majority of indicator series are based on data from countries with no or minimum adjustment. There are, however, still 13 indicator series for which the majority of data points are estimated by the international agency and 1 indicator series for which most data points are derived through a model based on variables other than the one the indicator is measuring. A complete list of series under each category and the related data availability is provided in annex II.

[2] The category "country data" is an exception: when the country has data in the "country data" category for at least one data point, it is classified as "country data" for that specific series, following the rationale that in that case, the country has the capacity to produce the indicator in adherence to international standards.

Table 4

Number and percentage of Millennium Development Goals indicator series by nature of the data available in the majority of countries in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database, as of July 2011

	Indicator series	
Nature of data[a]	*Number*	*Percentage*
Indicator series reported for countries of the developing regions		
Country data	29	53
Country adjusted	5	9
Estimated	13	24
Modelled	1	2
Global monitoring data	4	7
Not available	3	5
Total	**55**	**100**
Indicator series related to ODA from the 22 donor countries		
Country data	6	100
Indicator series related to the 31 landlocked developing countries		
Country data	1	100
Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States		
Country data	1	100
Indicator series related to 40 eligible HIPC initiative countries		
Global monitoring data	3	100

[a] The coding of the nature of data is as follows:
Country data: the figure is the one produced and disseminated by the country (including data adjusted by the country to meet international standards).
Country adjusted: the figure is the one produced and provided by the country, but adjusted by the international agency for international comparability — that is to comply with internationally agreed standards, definitions and classifications (age group, International Standard Classification of Education, etc.).
Estimated: the figure is estimated by the international agency, when corresponding country data on a specific year or set of years are not available, or when multiple sources exist, or there are issues of data quality. Estimates are based on national data, such as surveys or administrative records, or other sources but on the same variable being estimated.
Modelled: the figure is modelled by the agency when there is a complete lack of data on the variable being estimated. The model is based on a set of covariates — other variables for which data are available and that can explain the phenomenon.
Global monitoring data: the figure is regularly produced by the designated agency for the global monitoring, based on country data. However, there is no corresponding figure at the country level, because the indicator is defined for international monitoring only (example: population below $1 a day).
Not available: the nature of data is unknown or was not provided.

33. In order for Millennium Development Goals data to be released in a timely manner, agencies have improved their communication with national statistical systems and made efforts to compile and release the international data series on the Goals as early as possible at every round of reporting. All indicators have data for the year 2000 or later. There remains, however, a delay of at least two years for most of the indicators, with only 8 indicator series with data for 2010 and 1 with data for 2011 (table 5).

Table 5
Number and percentage of indicator series by latest available year in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database, as of July 2011

	Indicator series	
Latest available year	*Number*	*Percentage*
Indicator series reported for countries of the developing regions		
2000-2004	1	2
2005-2006	13	24
2007	6	11
2008	8	15
2009	18	33
2010	8	15
2011	1	2
Total	**55**	**100**
Indicator series related to ODA from the 23 donor countries		
2009	6	100
Indicator series related to the 31 landlocked developing countries		
2009	1	100
Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States		
2009	1	100
Indicator series related to 40 eligible HIPC initiative countries		
2011	3	100

VI. Millennium Development Goals reporting in 2011

34. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs published the annual report, *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*,[3] launched in Geneva by the Secretary-General on 7 July. The report presents the trends and analysis on Goals, based on regional and subregional figures on the official Millennium Development Goals indicators provided by the partner agencies. The data and analysis presented in the report were also used as an input to the annual report of the Secretary-General

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.I.10.

on accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (A/66/126) and his report on the work of the Organization (A/66/1), which contains a statistical annex with all official figures on the MDGs indicators. Both reports were issued for the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

35. The "Millennium Development Goals: 2011 Progress Chart", a colour-coded chart presenting an assessment of regions and subregions that are on- or off-track to achieve the Goals, was also issued by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs along with *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011*.

36. The Statistics Division continues to maintain and improve the website and database of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals (http://mdgs.un.org). In October 2011, the Statistics Division, with the support of UNICEF and the DevInfo group, issued the MDGInfo 2011 — an adaptation of the DevInfo platform.

VII. Conclusions and way forward

37. **The Commission may wish to take note of the work done by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the Statistics Division during 2011 in implementing the requests made by the Statistical Commission at its forty-second session on the improvement of data and indicators to monitor the Millennium Development Goals.**

38. **The Commission may also wish to take note of the proposed next steps:**

(a) **Continue the technical work on the country progress snapshots, in continuous consultation with experts from national statistical systems and make the methodology widely available to countries that wish to apply it;**

(b) **Continue to provide training to countries on the production of data and indicators on the Millennium Development Goals at the subnational level;**

(c) **Continue the work to reconcile the national and international data and to improve the coordination of Millennium Development Goals monitoring in countries;**

(d) **Make the updated SDMX data structure definition for Millennium Development Goals indicators widely available to national statistical systems and continue to provide technical assistance and training to countries that wish to adopt the SDMX standards on Millennium Development Goals indicators for the exchange of data and metadata within national statistical systems and for reporting to the international statistical system.**

Annex I

Assessment of data availability in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database

1. A total of 66 indicator series were included in the analysis of data availability (see list A). For the assessment of progress in the availability of data over time (between 2003 and 2011), the analysis is conducted on a subgroup of 22 key series. Considering a smaller set of indicators has the advantage that the assessment can be conducted over a longer period of time, providing a clearer indication of how data production has evolved since the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals began. The analysis is based on the information available at the time the Millennium Development Goals indicators database is regularly updated — July of each year.

2. Of the 66 series, 55 are relevant to all 163 developing countries included in the database, while the remaining refer to specific groups of countries as follows:

(a) Six series relevant to 23 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) donor countries;

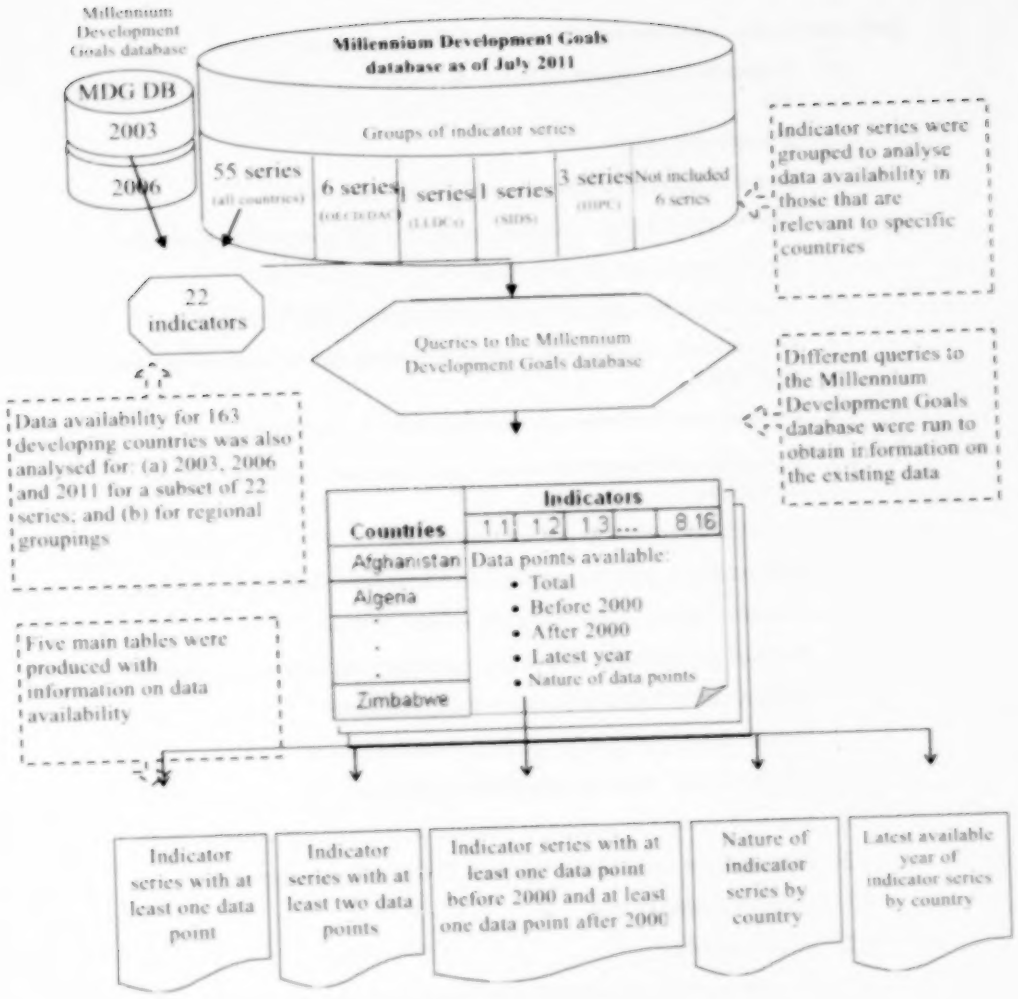
(b) One series relevant to the 31 landlocked developing countries;

(c) One series relevant to the 51 small island developing States;

(d) Three series relevant to the 40 heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative countries.

3. The remaining six indicator series were not included because data are not reported (one series), the indicators refer to an aggregated level (four series), or the reporting stated in 2010 (one series).

4. The following chart describes the steps followed to process the information:


Millennium Development Goals database
MDG DB
2003
2006
Millennium Development Goals database as of July 2011
Groups of indicator series
55 series
6 series
1 series
1 series
3 series
Not included 6 series
Indicator series were grouped to analyse data availability in those that are relevant to specific countries
22 indicators
Queries to the Millennium Development Goals database
Different queries to the Millennium Development Goals database were run to obtain information on the existing data
Data availability for 163 developing countries was also analysed for: (a) 2003, 2006 and 2011 for a subset of 22 series; and (b) for regional groupings
Countries
Indicators
1.1
1.2
1.3
...
8.16
Afghanistan
Algeria
Zimbabwe
Data points available:
• Total
• Before 2000
• After 2000
• Latest year
• Nature of data points
Five main tables were produced with information on data availability
Indicator series with at least one data point
Indicator series with at least two data points
Indicator series with at least one data point before 2000 and at least one data point after 2000
Nature of indicator series by country
Latest available year of indicator series by country

Abbreviations: LLDCs, landlocked developing countries; SIDS, small island developing States.

List A. Millennium Development Goals indicators included in data availability analysis

Indicator series reported for countries of the developing regions:

1.1 Proportion of population below $1 purchasing power potential (PPP) per day

1.2 Poverty gap ratio

1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

1.4 Growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) per person employed

1.5 Employment-to-population ratio

1.6 Proportion of employed people living below $1 (PPP) per day

1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment

1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age[a]

1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

2.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education[a]

2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary[a]

2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24-year-olds, women and men[a]

3.1 Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education

Gender Parity Index in primary-level enrolment[a]

Gender Parity Index in secondary-level enrolment[a]

Gender Parity Index in tertiary-level enrolment[a]

3.2 Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector[a]

3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament[a]

4.1 Under-5 mortality rate

4.2 Infant mortality rate

4.3 Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles

5.1 Maternal mortality ratio

5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate[a]

5.4 Adolescent birth rate

5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)

Antenatal care coverage, at least one visit

Antenatal care coverage, at least four visits

[a] Series included in data availability analysis for 2003, 2006 and 2011.

5.6 Unmet need for family planning

6.1 HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years[a]

6.2 Condom use at the last high-risk sex

Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24 years old, men

Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24 years old, women

Condom use to overall contraceptive use among currently married women 15-49 years old[a]

6.3 Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS

Men 15-24 years old with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS

Women 15-24 years old with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS

6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years

6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs

6.7 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets

6.8 Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate antimalarial drugs

6.9 Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis

Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

Tuberculosis prevalence rate per 100,000 population[a]

Tuberculosis death rate per 100,000 population[a]

6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)

Tuberculosis detection rate under DOTS[a]

Tuberculosis treatment success rate under DOTS[a]

7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest

7.2 Carbon dioxide emissions, total, per capita and per $1 GDP (PPP)[a]

7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances

Consumption of all ozone-depleting substances in ozone depletion potential (ODP) metric tons

Consumption of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons in ODP metric tons[a]

7.5 Proportion of total water resources used

7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected

7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source[a]

7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility[a]

7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums

8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services

8.14 Telephone lines per 100 population[a]

8.15 Cellular subscribers per 100 population

8.16 Internet users per 100 population[a]

Indicator series related to ODA from the 23 donor countries

8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income

Net ODA as percentage of OECD/DAC donors gross national income

Net ODA to LDCs as percentage of OECD/DAC donors gross national income

8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)

8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied

8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product

8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

Indicator series related to the 31 landlocked developing countries

8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes

Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States

8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes

Indicator series related to 40 eligible HIPC initiative countries

8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)

8.11 Debt relief committed under the HIPC initiatives and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative

Debt relief committed under HIPC initiative, cumulative

Debt relief delivered in full under Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, cumulative

List B. Indicator series not included in data availability analysis

Indicator series with data reported only at the regional or global level

7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits

7.7 Proportion of species threatened with extinction

8.6 Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty

8.7 Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries

Indicator series for which data reporting started in 2010

6.6 Incidence and death rates associated with malaria

Indicator series for which no data are reported

8.13 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis

Annex II

Data availability in the Millennium Development Goals indicators database, by country coverage and nature of data

Millennium Development Goals indicators		Countries with at least 1 data point		Countries with at least 2 data points		Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000		Nature of data[a]
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
Indicator series reported for developing regions								
C = country data								
1.4	Growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) per person employed	78	48	57	35	31	19	C
1.5	Employment-to-population ratio	135	83	99	61	75	46	C
1.6	Proportion of employed people living below $1 purchasing power potential (PPP) per day	73	45	49	30	2	1	C
1.7	Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment	116	71	108	66	50	31	C
1.8	Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age	155	95	154	94	79	48	C
2.1	Net enrolment ratio in primary education	125	77	119	73	94	58	C
2.2	Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary	118	72	107	66	77	47	C
2.3	Literacy rate of 15-24-year-olds, women and men	130	80	115	71	19	12	C
3.1	Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education							
	Gender Parity Index in primary-level enrolment	143	88	140	86	129	79	C
	Gender Parity Index in secondary-level enrolment	139	85	134	82	121	74	C
	Gender Parity Index in tertiary-level enrolment	126	77	107	66	78	48	C
3.2	Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	109	67	81	50	81	50	C
3.3	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	135	83	134	82	125	77	C
5.3	Contraceptive prevalence rate	118	72	85	52	87	53	C
5.4	Adolescent birth rate	162	99	162	99	145	89	C
5.6	Unmet need for family planning	102	63	55	34	52	32	C
6.2	Condom use at the last high-risk sex							
	Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24 years old, men, percentage	106	65	101	62	11	7	C
	Condom use at last high-risk sex, 15-24 years old, women, percentage	156	96	156	96	13	8	C
	Condom use to overall contraceptive use among currently married women 15-49 years old, percentage	158	97	157	96	81	50	C

Millennium Development Goals indicators	Countries with at least 1 data point		Countries with at least 2 data points		Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000		Nature of data[a]
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
6.3 Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS							
Men 15-24 years old with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, percentage	158	97	147	90	2	1	C
Women 15-24 years old with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, percentage	163	100	163	100	2	1	C
6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years	50	31	17	10	25	15	C
6.7 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets	46	28	27	17	2	1	C
6.8 Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate antimalarial drugs	53	33	29	18	4	2	C
6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)							
Tuberculosis treatment success rate under DOTS, percentage	154	94	153	94	144	88	C
7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest	161	99	161	99	160	98	C
7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances							
Consumption of all ozone-depleting substances (ODP) in ODP metric tons	138	85	138	85	137	84	C
Consumption of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons in ODP metric tons	138	85	138	85	137	84	C
7.5 Proportion of total water resources used	30	18	2	1	19	12	C
CA = country adjusted							
5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	161	99	133	82	119	73	CA
5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)							
Antenatal care coverage, at least four visits, percentage	138	85	138	85	45	28	CA
Antenatal care coverage, at least one visit, percentage	142	87	140	86	99	61	CA
6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs	92	56	92	56	0	0	CA
8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services	100	61	100	61	96	59	CA
E = estimated							
1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	153	94	142	87	121	74	E
4.1 Under-5 mortality rate	139	85	139	85	138	85	E

Millennium Development Goals indicators		Countries with at least 1 data point		Countries with at least 2 data points		Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000		Nature of data[a]
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
4.2	Infant mortality rate	155	95	155	95	138	85	E
4.3	Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles	155	95	155	95	137	84	E
6.1	HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years	163	100	163	100	97	60	E
6.9	Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis							
	Tuberculosis death rate per 100,000 population	155	95	155	95	153	94	E
	Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	155	95	155	95	153	94	E
	Tuberculosis prevalence rate per 100,000 population	155	95	155	95	153	94	E
6.10	Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)							
	Tuberculosis detection rate under DOTS	157	96	155	95	151	93	E
7.6	Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected	163	100	163	100	162	99	E
7.8	Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source	136	83	127	78	132	81	E
7.9	Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	135	83	126	77	131	80	E
7.10	Proportion of urban population living in slums	91	56	42	26	59	36	E
M = modelled								
5.1	Maternal mortality ratio	155	95	155	95	119	73	M
G = global monitoring data								
1.1	Proportion of population below $1 (PPP) per day	137	84	103	63	66	40	G
1.2	Poverty gap ratio	118	72	86	53	66	40	G
1.3	Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	161	99	145	89	61	37	G
7.2	Carbon dioxide emissions, total, per capita and per $1 GDP (PPP)	154	94	154	94	152	93	G
NA = not available								
8.14	Telephone lines per 100 population	158	97	158	97	155	95	NA
8.15	Cellular subscribers per 100 population	158	97	158	97	156	96	NA
8.16	Internet users per 100 population	153	94	153	94	152	93	NA

Millennium Development Goals indicators	*Countries with at least 1 data point*		*Countries with at least 2 data points*		*Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000*		*Nature of data*[a]
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	
Indicator series related to official development assistance (ODA) from the 23 donor countries							
C = country data							
8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) donors' gross national income							
Net ODA as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income	23	100	23	100	23	100	C
Net ODA to least developed countries as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income	23	100	23	100	22	100	C
8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)	23	100	23	100	20	87	C
8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied	23	100	23	100	21	91	C
8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product	11	33	11	33	11	33	C
8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity	23	100	23	100	0	0	C
Indicator series related to the 31 landlocked developing countries							
C = country data							
8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes	31	100	31	100	30	97	C
Indicator series related to the 51 small island developing States							
C = country data							
8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes	34	65	34	65	31	60	C
Indicator series related to 40 eligible heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative countries							
G = global monitoring data							
8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)	40	100					G
8.11 Debt relief committed under the HIPC initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative[b]							

Millennium Development Goals indicators	Countries with at least 1 data point		Countries with at least 2 data points		Countries with at least 1 data point before 2000 and 1 data point after 2000		Nature of data[a]
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
Debt relief committed under the HIPC initiative (cumulative)	36	90					G
Debt relief delivered in full under Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (cumulative)	32	80					G

[a] The coding of the nature of the data is as follows:
C = country data. The figure is the one produced and disseminated by the country (including data adjusted by the country to meet international standards).
CA = country adjusted. The figure is the one produced and provided by the country, but adjusted by the international agency for international comparability — that is to comply with internationally agreed standards, definitions and classifications (age group, International Standard Classification of Education, etc.).
E = estimated. The figure is estimated by the international agency, when corresponding country data on a specific year or set of years are not available, or when multiple sources exist, or there are issues of data quality. Estimates are based on national data, such as surveys or administrative records, or other sources but on the same variable being estimated.
M = modelled. The figure is modelled by the agency when there is a complete lack of data on the variable being estimated. The model is based on a set of covariates — other variables for which data are available and that can explain the phenomenon.
G = global monitoring data. The figure is regularly produced by the designated agency for the global monitoring, based on country data. However, there is no corresponding figure at the country level, because the indicator is defined for international monitoring only (example: population below $1 a day).
NA = not available. The nature of the data is unknown or was not provided.

[b] Data on the cumulative debt relief committed are updated every year.